

BOSTON GLOBE
9 July 1985

5

Private funds from US reportedly sent to rebels

BANGKOK - A guerrilla spokesman said yesterday that private groups in the United States have sent "several thousands of dollars a month" to fund the noncommunist Cambodian resistance, but there was no way of knowing exactly where this money originated.

The private groups are Cambodians living in the United States and former American servicemen who had fought in Indochina, the spokesman said, adding that the only US government money the guerrillas have received was humanitarian aid through the United Nations.

The rebel spokesman, Dr. Abdul Gaffar of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, made his comments in response to a story in The Washington Post yesterday that said the Central Intelligence Agency has been covertly providing millions of dollars a year since 1982 for nonmilitary purposes to the two noncommunist guerrilla forces, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The Post said the covert aid amounted to \$5 million this year and that CIA officers in Thai-

land worked closely with the Thai military to ensure that no aid went to the communist-led Khmer Rouge, the third party in the coalition fighting the Vietnamese, who have occupied Cambodia since 1979.

A senior US official here said he could not confirm or deny these reports. A US Embassy spokesman confirmed last week that William J. Casey, the director of Central Intelligence, had made an unpublicized visit to Thailand recently, but would not comment on reports that Casey had also gone to the Thai-Cambodian border.

- DAVID WIGG

STAT